

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 CU-02 AGR-05 DOTE-00 HEW-02

HUD-01 INT-05 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 SAB-01 /122 W
----- 034483

O 022301Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 9324

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 911

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 6794

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR ECLA PN

SUBJ: PANAMA CANAL ISSUE AT UN HABITAT CARACAS REGIONAL
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 155816, CARACAS 6720

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN AFTERNOON SESSION JUL 2 OF CARACAS MEETING,
PANAMANIAN DELEGATION CIRCULATED RESOLUTION (FULL TEXT SEPTTEL)
CALLING UPON ECLA TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE CURRENT CANAL ZONE
ARRANGEMENTS CONSTITUTE "ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES" TO
THE PANAMANIAN GOVT'S HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICY AND TO
EXPRESS THE STRONG WISH THAT THE US-PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS WILL
PERMIT PANAMA TO "EXERCISE TOTALLY ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS" IN THE
CANAL ZONE. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION, US DEL INFORMED HEAD OF
PANAMANIAN DEL THAT TEXT APPEARED TO GO WELL BEYOND WHAT THE
US WOULD LIKELY ACCEPT, BUT THAT HE WOULD SEEK FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. PANAMANIAN DEL CHIEF SAID THAT
HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS MODIFICATIN OF TEXT DURING MORNING
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OF JUL 3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, IF POSSIBLE,

BY MORNING OF JULY 3. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AFTERNOON SESSION JUL 2, US DEL MANAGED TO GET ADVANCE TEXT OF PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION ON WHICH PANAMANIAN DELEGATION HAD WORKED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND INVITED HEAD OF PANAMANIAN DELEGATION (VICE MINISTER OF HOUSING, ABEL RODRIQUEZ) TO DISCUSS TEXT PRIVATELY. RODRIQUEZ AGREED TO PRIVATE DISCUSSION, BUT SAID THAT, TO MEET JULY 2 DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS TO THE MEETING, HE WAS NOT ABLE TO HOLD UP CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENT.

2. IN PRIVATE BILATERAL, US DEL STATED THAT THE PANAMANIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION APPEARED TO GO WELL BEYOND WHAT THE US COULD TDWWGSL#ACCEPT AND SEEMED TO REPRESENT AN EFFORT TO GET ECLA'S ENDORSEMENT OF PANAMA'S POSITION IN THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. WE DREW FULLY UPON STATE 155816 AND POINTED OUT THAT THE RESOLUTION COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE AT UN HABITAT MEETINGS AND THAT THE RESOLUTION ALSO TOUCHED UPON SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. WE SAID THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A MORE BLAND RESOLUTION WHICH NOTED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PANAMA'S LAND POLICIES AND THE CNAL NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH CALLED FOR A JUST AND QUITABLE CONCLUSION TO THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WHICH NOTED MAY 15 OAS RESOLUTION TO THIS EFFECT.

3. RODRIQUEZ DEFENDED THE TEXT OF THE PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION BY ARGUING THAT IT DID NOT GO BEYOND THE OINTS CONTAINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION SIGNED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TACK IN FEBRUARY 1974. US DEL REMARKED THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CARACAS MEETING ON UN HABITAT TO GO INTO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS ON THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS WHY WE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE TEXT OF PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION. RODRIQUEZ REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT IN FURTHER PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS ON THE MORNING OF JULY 3.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT PANAMANIAN DELEGATION WOULD ACCEPT MAJOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT OF ITS RESOLUTION. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER WE CAN ACCEPT THE PANAMNIAN RESOLUTIN WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES AND, IF SO, WHAT THOSE CHANGES SHOULD BE. IF THE DEPT FINDS THE TEXT FUNDAMENTALLY UN-

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ACCEPTABLE, WE WILL ABSTAIN WHEN THE RESOLUTION COMES BEFORE THE CARACAS MEETING AT THE AFTERNOON SESSION, JULY 3.
SHLAUDEMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: CARACAS 6794, #PARAGRAPH 2 AS RECEIVED.

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